



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Achievement

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Sandra Rudnick
Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Martha Trevino Powell
Dr. Harriette F. Williams

APPROVED MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **March 15, 2010**, in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim accounting or transcription of events at this meeting.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Patricia Curry	Dr. La-Doris McClaney
Carol O. Biondi	Steven M. Olivas, Esq.
Ann Franzen	Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Susan F. Friedman	Martha Trevino Powell
Helen A. Kleinberg	Dr. Harriette F. Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Rev. Cecil L. Murray	Sandra Rudnick
Dr. Maria Rochart	Stacey Savelle

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:04 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Self introductions were made.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- **March 15, 2010**

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Biondi, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the agenda for March 15, 2010, was unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **February 1, 2010**

Action Taken:

On recommendation of Chair Curry, approval of the minutes for February 1, 2010, was continued to the April 5, 2010 meeting.

- **February 22, 2010**

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Franzen, the minutes for February 22, 2010, were unanimously approved with the following change:

- Page 4, under “Roundtable Discussion,” revised to read “the formation of a ~~Commission~~ **Committee** . . .”

- **March 1, 2010**

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the minutes for March 1, 2010, were unanimously approved.

V. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Curry advised the Commission to complete the Statement of Economic Interest (California Form 700) and submit to Executive Office staff as soon possible.

She added that DCFS will present on the *Independent Living Program (ILP)* and *Permanency* at April 19, 2010, meeting.

Action Taken:

Chair Curry’s verbal report was received and filed.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- **Follow-Up on Questions from
the Meeting of 3/1/10 Relating to
the KinGAP Program**

Michael Gray, DCFS

Mr. Gray provided the Commission with a follow-up fact sheet with responses to questions posed by the Commission at the meeting of March 1, 2010; fact sheet included statistical information on 388 WIC Petition filings.

He reported the following:

- Ms. Diana Alcantara, DCFS, has been assigned to Edelman D. Children's Court to aid parents and caregivers with resolution or processing WIC 388 Petitions which reinstates Juvenile Court jurisdiction. Due to Ms. Alcantara's intervention, many relative caregivers that request 388 WIC Petitions do not go through with filing.
- 388 WIC Petitions can only be filed by parents or relative caregivers; youth cannot file.
- AWOL youths are not tracked by Kinship Care, but by the regional offices. Chair Curry requested that staff reminds her to contact DCFS Director Ploehn regarding data on AWOL 388 cases.

Action Taken:

The Commission received and filed the update report from Michael Gray, DCFS ([copy on file](#)).

● **KinGAP Navigators**

**Michael Gray, DCFS
Damien Zavala, Aspiranet
Foster Family Agency**

Mr. Gray reported that in late 2008-early 2009 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted in support of the Family Connection Discretionary grants. One of the areas highlighted in the RFP was navigation, and the importance of collaboration. Therefore, a collaborative of several county agencies was assembled to apply for the grant. The partnership was named Los Angeles Kinship Advisory and Advocacy Network (LA-KAAN). Aspiranet became the lead applicant and moved quickly on the grant stipulation that a program would be up and running within 90 days.

Damien Zavala, Southern California Regional Director, Aspiranet, provided copies of his report title, "Encore Parenting: Navigating Generations," and reported the following:

- Aspiranet is the only agency across the country that has collaboration with DCFS.
- Dr. Eileen Pastor, CSULB, has created a Kinship Navigator Curriculum for the Child Welfare League of America. The department has plans to implement the curriculum, and hopes to present it to other departments.
- Children's outcomes will be measured regarding permanency, placement and educational needs, with the assistance of LAUSD, LACOE, and other educational agencies.

Action Taken:

The Commission received and filed the KinGAP Navigators report presented by Mr. Zavala, Aspiratnet ([copy on file](#)).

● **DMH Systems Navigators**

Greta Oducayen, DMH

Ms. Oducayen distributed a document titled, “County of Los Angeles-Department of Mental Health Transition Age Youth Division MHSA Brief Program Description,” and gave an overview on DMH systems navigators ([copy on file](#)). She responded to questions posed by the Commission, and reported the following:

- The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was created in 2004, which resulted in the creation of the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program that services youth (TAY), ages 16-25.
- Daniel’s Village is the first TAY permanent housing subsidy; it has six beds and has been in operation for approximately six months.
- Housing Specialists assist TAY with Section-8 housing, shelter care, or other housing programs, wherever applicable.
- DMH navigator teams are co-located with DCFS, Casey Family Program, the Metroplex Center, the Community Guild, and Penny Lane Residential Treatment Program. These areas are referred to as Transition Resource Centers (TRC), and are funded through the Independent Living Program (ILP).

Sylvia Wang, DMH, gave the following report:

- One of the many functions DMH navigators perform is visiting shelters and aiding clients in obtaining an ID cards, work referrals, medical or psychological referrals, and connecting them with Field Capable Clinical Services (FCCS).
- Transitional homes are inspected before making a placement to ensure the home is safe for clients.

Action Taken:

The Commission received and filed verbal reports by Greta Oducayen and Sylvia Wong, DMH Systems Navigators.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Trish Ploehn, DCFS, reported the following:

- Although fiscal projections for next year have improved, the County wide budget situation is in a dire position; and the Department is looking at a number of cuts.
- Included in cuts is the utilization of Title IV-E Waiver reinvestment funds which need to be redirected to group home rate increases in the following increments 33% for 2010 (approximately \$33 million) and 35% for 2011 (approximately \$60 million). Normally there is a federal, state and local match in payments, however, because of Waiver funds being allocated to DCFS; DCFS has to absorb the federal portion. Alameda and Los Angeles Counties are advocating for the federal government match. A letter is being drafted to address this issue.
- An undetermined percentage of reinvestment funds will be used to cover regular costs of doing business. This will impact Waiver reinvestment funds which are dwindling; hopefully there will be an opportunity to expand Waiver funds to Family Preservation.
- DCFS has been successful in Waiver fund use, however, must continue to demonstrate successes to ensure its extension.
- Group home populations have decreased in the past year by over 50% from 2,000 to 913. The department has virtually eliminated the number of children under the age of 12 from group home placements.
- Los Angeles County will be one of four counties to enter into a Residential-Based Services Pilot. Director Ploehn offered to have Ms. Lisa Parrish, DCFS Deputy Director, and several group home directors attend a future meeting to discuss the Pilot.

Director Ploehn introduced DCFS' new Chief Deputy Director, Dr. Jackie Contreras.

Action Taken:

Director Ploehn's verbal report was received and filed. The Commission requested Director Ploehn to present data on the dollar amounts of Wraparound costs vs. Group Home costs at a future meeting.

**VIII. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION FROM THE
MEETINGS OF 1/11/10, 1/25/10, AND 2/22/10
RELATING TO CROSSOVER YOUTH AND
TITLE IV-E WAIVER FUNDS**

Chair Curry

Chair Curry presented a draft document ([copy on file](#)) for the Commission's review which summarized roundtable discussions from recent meetings, and outlined recommendations to the CEO, DCFS, and the Department of Probation regarding Crossover Youth and Title IV-E Waiver reinvestment funds. Recommendations were made by the Commission and stakeholders over the past Commission meetings. Chair Curry requested Commissioners review recommendations and bring forward suggestions for discussion at a future Commission meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Devall, Amparo Remington, Mary Caraway, and DeAnn D'antignac, representing the Community Coalition of South Los Angeles, Andrew Bridge, Director, Child Welfare Initiative, and Ruth Craft, former caregiver addressed the Commission.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Curry advised Commissioners to file a pollworker application if they were interested in serving at the June 8, 2010, primary elections.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 12:07 p.m.